

REMARKS

Upon entry of this Reply, claims 1, 2, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20, and 22 will remain in this application. Claims 3, 6-15, 17, 19, 21, and 23-55 were previously canceled, and new claims 56-59 are added. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claim 1 was again rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,249,661 to Kawamura et al. Dependent claims 2, 4, 5, 16, 18, 20, and 22 were also rejected based on the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent. Reconsideration is requested.

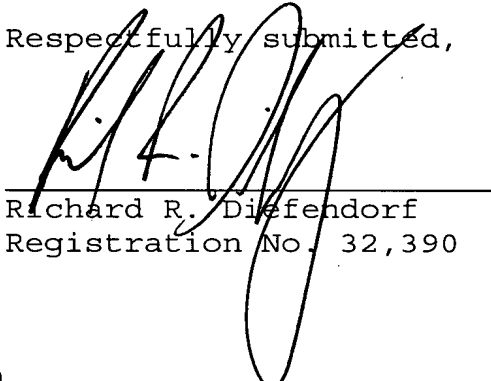
Claim 1 as amended above distinguishes the present invention from the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent relied on. The Kawamura et al. ('661) patent does not disclose a synchronizer ring comprising a tribological coating which is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant as claim 1 now requires. As noted in the Reply previously filed on January 9, 2003, the film 3 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) synchronizer ring has ceramic particles of 5 to 30% by weight disposed in molybdenum or a molybdenum alloy. It is not clear that that these ceramic particles constitute a solid lubricant. Lines 30-35 in column 4 of the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent, moreover, explicitly set forth that when the ceramic particles are present in an amount over 30 weight %, abrasion of the object member may overexceed. The Kawamura et al. ('661) film is not a tribological coating

which is permitted to be over 30% and up to 40% by weight of a solid lubricant as claim 1 now defines.

For reasons set forth above, claim 1 as amended above is not anticipated by the Kawamura et al. ('661) patent relied on, and it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is patentable. The rest of the claims in this application depend on claim 1 and are patentable as well.

This application is now in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any questions after considering this Reply, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney.

Respectfully submitted,



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